श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहिब, ये भी बार-बार सवाल कर रहे हैं और मैं भी बार-बार यह कह रहा हूं कि सीमेण्ट तकलीफमें है। सीमेण्ट की मांग बढ़े, इसके लिए हमने कुछ कदम उठाए है। मैंने स्पेसिफिक दो सैक्टर्स का जिक्र किया है जहां कदम उठा रहे है। या कदम उठाने की कोशिश है। इसको क्यों नहीं तसलीम करते?

†اشری سکندر بخت: صدر صاحب، یہ بار بار سوال کر رہے ہیں، اور میں بھی بار بار یہ کہہ رہا ہوں کہ سیمنٹ تکلیف میں ہے، سیمنٹ کی مانگ بڑھے، اسکے لئے ہم نے کچھ قدم اٹھائے ہیں۔ میں نے اسپیسفک دو سیکٹروں کا ذکر کیا ہے جہاں قدم اٹھا رہے ہیں یا قدم اٹھانے کی کوشش ہے اسکو کیوں نہیں تسلیم کرتے؟

It is exactly what we are saying, yes, there has been a terrible recession in the demand itself. We are trying to ensure that public expenditure में डिमांड सबसे पहले पैदा हो।

That is what we are trying to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I find a number of names for putting supplementary questions. Since this is a very, very important subject to discuss in the House, I suggest that Members can give notices for a Half-an-Hour Discussion, or for a Short Duration Discussion so that we can have a discussion for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJE: Sir, I think it is a good idea to have a Short Duration Discussion on the overall economy so that we can bring in matters related to industry, we can bring in matters related to export, we can bring in matters related to the implementation of the Plan. That would be more appropriate. We can discuss the price rise and all aspects of the economy. I think some notices have already been sent on the mid-term review of the economy.

DR. BIPLAB DAS GUPTA: Sir, you may recall in the morning, we have proposed that there should be a discussion on the pricerise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are taking up that issue immediately after the Question Hour. You know about it. We are going to take it up.

DR. BIPLAB DAS GUPTA: Then, we can cover some of these issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 5-Mr. K.K. Birla.

*4. [The questioner (Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave) was absent. For answer, vide col. 41 infra.]

Stagnation in Steel Industry

*5. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the stagnation in the Indian Steel Industry with sharp decline in exports and domestic consumption;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any critical analysis of the prevailing situation in the steel industry;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to save the industry from becoming red?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Naveen Patnaik):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has been a slow down in the growth of production and consumption of finished steel in the last one year. During the period April - October 1998-99 apparent consumption of finished steel was 2.4% higher than the corresponding period last year. However, exports of steel were lower than last year by 2.2% in the same period.

(b) and (c) Governemnt is aware of several factors which have contributed to the present slow down of the steel sector. Some of these factors are:

(i) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors especially infrastructure and industrial production.

(ii) Overall economic slow down in the country.

(iii) Cost escalation in input materials for steel industry.

(iv) Continuous increase in excise duty on steel.

(v) Dumping of finished steel from CIS and other countries.

(vi) Adverse conditions in export market for steel.

(vii) Decrease in domestic and international prices of steel.

(d) Government has taken several steps to help steel industry overcome the present problems, these are as under:—

(i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors, such as, rural and agro based industrial sector.

(ii) To reduce input for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content < 12%), non-coking coal (ash content < 12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel exide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (> 28) has recently been waived.

(iii) Anti dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has recently been recommended. Steps are being taken for strengthening of anti dumping investigative machinery.

(iv) Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A steel Exporters' Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of ECB norms has been strongly recommended.

(vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance quality of Indian steel.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, as I said a minute back, the economic situation in the country, a large number of industries are

passing through an unprecedented financial crisis and are caught by a severe demand crunch. The Steel industry is one of those industries which is passing through an unprecedented financial crisis. The Indian steel industry has been bruised and battered after being revaged by the onslaught of stagnant domestic economy and large scale imports.

The South-East Asian crisis had delivered a body blow to the industry. The currencies in those countries are more competitive, compared to our currency. In fact, it is good that the Government had imposed anti-dumping duty on a number of steel items. My first question is: The duty which has been fixed, is it adequate enough? Will it result in the revival of the steel industry? If so, what has been the industry's reaction to it?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, the answer to that question is the steel sector's fortunes are cyclical in nature. At the moment, the demand for steel is sluggish. But our Government is taking various measures to try and rectify these present problems. To begin with, the action taken by the Ministry is to boost the demand of cement and steel. The leading steel producers in the country are members of the Institute for Steel Development and Growth. We are now trying to take measures. I myself along with other members of the steel sector have been to the Finance Ministry and requested them to impose anti-dumping duty, to raise import duty and to lower excise duty because these are the major problems which the steel industry is facing. We have also been to the Commerce Ministry to help us in the anti-dumping matter. As far as steel is concerned, I had been to the Railway Ministry to reduce tariffs. In the last Budget the Finance Minister said that encouragement will be given to infrastructure. So, till this happens, the demand for steel would be sluggish. As we had replied to a previous question, when the infrastructure grows, steel and cement would be consumed.

Now, I went to see the Power Minister. Forty per cent of the use of steel is in power projects. So, we try to find out what the pending projects are and what the future projects are for the consumption of steel. I have personally written to all the Chief Ministers to rationalise the tariffs on power so that the steel sector situation can improve. I repeat again, Sir, that one need not be pessimistic about the fortunes of the steel sector because the fortunes of the steel sector are cyclical in nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: My second supplementary is this. The Government has, in the Ninth Plan, fixed an export target of six million tonnes for the steel industry. The industry can export this quantity only in case it is economically so powerful that it can suffer the loss that may be there in the steel export. My query will be, with the help of the various reliefs which you are granting to the steel industry, are you expecting that the steel industry will become powerful enough so as to export six million tonnes in the Ninth Five-Year Plan?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: That is our earnest hope and we have looked towards the targets. I repeat again, with the reduction of certain tariffs, we are optimistic. We have asked for a reduction in duty in the case of import of certain raw material which are not available in the country for the steel industry. Sir, as you know, it is not only our nation but our South-East Asian neighbours also whose economies have had a terrible slow-down. Also, you know the material that comes in from the CIS countries and from the South-East Asian neighbours. We have sent a proposal to the Finance Ministry to reduce the import of steel from the CIS countries. We hope of success in that from two CIS countries, namely, Russia and Ukraine and that will be a rational aspect which will help us.

The hon. Member asked about exports. My Ministry is looking for new markets in Central America, in South America and in Canada. We are making a strong breakthrough even in such nations. In Madagascar, we have had extremely optimistic reports. In answer to the question about the export of six million tonnes plus abroad, we are certainly very, very optimistic about that target.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, the answer of the hon. Minister follows the answers of his very hon. predecessors-all good intentions; "I am doing this, I am doing

that, I am writing here, I am meeting this person". We would like to know what has happened since this Government has been in power. People on the right have been rightly concerned. In India, of course, the major problem is employment. The steel sector is a major employer. And most steel companies, whether they are in the private sector or in the public sector, are retrenching people. They are losing money. In fact, one of the Nav Ratnas, the SAIL, is expected to lose over Rs. 1000 Crores this year. All we are hearing in answers to question is-"I am meeting this Minister, I am meeting that Minister, I have written this letter". What we would like to know is what happened. The industry is losing. People are losing jobs and even countries like America and other in Europe have already imposed anti-dumping tariffs. This Government is only writing letters and meeting Ministers! We would like to have specific answers, Sir.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: In answer to that question, in particular regarding the SAIL, the SAIL is taking various measures to improve the situation. *(Interruptions).*

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Nothing taken. *(Interruptions).* We want a half-an-hour discussion. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JIBON ROY: You are reducing customs, increasing excise also. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

श्रमिकों की भागीदारी तथा मजदूरी हेतु मानदण्ड

***1. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार उद्योग के सभी क्षेत्रों में श्रमिकों की भागीदारी तथा मजदूरी नियत करने हेतु निर्धारित मानदण्डों में उत्पादन तथा उत्पादकता को शामिल करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) क्या फिल्म उद्योग को भी इस दायरे के अन्तर्गत लाने का प्रावधान किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) से (घ) प्रबंधन में कर्मचारियों की सहभागिता संबंधी योजना जो इस समय विद्यमान है, दिसम्बर 1983 में तैयार और अधिसूचित की गई थी। यह योजना विशेष रूप से छूट प्राप्त उद्यमों के अलावा, सभी केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उद्यमों पर लागू है। इसमें कार्यशाला (शॉप) और संयंत्र (प्लान्ट) स्तरों पर द्विपक्षीय मंच के गठन की संकल्पना है। उपयुक्त समझे गए उद्यमों में, इसे बोर्ड स्तर पर भी लागू किया जाना था। इस योजना में उत्पादन, गुणवत्ता, लक्ष्यों, प्रौद्योगिकीय सुधार, सुरक्षा, कल्याण उपाय, पर्यावरणीय मुद्दों, गैर-हाजिरी उद्यमों के वित्तीय निष्पादन आदि से संबंधित कतिपय कार्य-सम्बद्ध मुद्दों पर द्विपक्षीय विचार-विमर्श की व्यवस्था है।

राज्य सरकारों से प्रबन्धन में कर्मचारियों की सहभागिता योजना, 1983 अपने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों में लागू करने का अनुरोध किया गया था। चलचित्र उद्योग सहित निजी क्षेत्र के उद्यमों को भी इस योजना को लागू करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए।

प्रबंधन में कर्मकारों की सहभागिता सम्बन्धी समय-समय पर क्रियान्वित विभिन्न योजनाओं और इस संबंध में प्राप्त अनुभवों को भी ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने योजना की समीक्षा करने और प्रबंधन में कर्मकारों की सहभागिता को अधिक कारगर तथा अर्थपूर्ण बनाने के लिए एक नया दृष्टिकोण विकसित करने का निर्णय लिया है। अत: प्रबंधन में कर्मकारों की सहभागिता संबंधी विधेयक तैयार किया गया और उपक्रमों, प्रतिष्ठानों अथवा किसी उद्योग से संबद्ध अन्य संगठनों के प्रबंधन में कर्मकारों की सहभागिता के लिए और सम्बन्धित मामलों अथवा आनुषंगिक मामलों से संबंधित सामग्री मुहैया कराने के लिए राज्य सभा में 30 मई, 1990 को प्रस्तुत किया गया। यह विधेयक श्रम और कल्याण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के जांच करने और रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए संदर्भित किया गया है।

अर्थव्यवस्था के सभी क्षेत्रों के लिए कोई एक समान मजदूरी नीति नहीं है। संगठित क्षेत्र में मजदूरी का निर्धारण वार्ता और समझौतों के माध्यम से किया जाता है। के.सा. क्षे.ठ. के मामले में, सार्वजनिक उद्यम विभाग, उद्योग मंत्रालय मजदूरी में संशोधन के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी करता है और वार्ताओं की अनुमति देता है। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान, सरकार ने पांचवें दौर की वार्ता और नए मजदूरी समझौते के लिए अनुमति प्रदान की है जिसके अन्तर्गत प्रबंधन अलग-अलग उद्यम/एकक द्वारा स्त्रोतों/लाभों के अनुरूप मजदूरी के स्वरूप पर विचार